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Letter dated 6 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Germany, the Security Council will hold an open debate on the subject "Children and armed conflict" on Wednesday, 19 September 2012. In order to help steer the discussions on the subject, Germany has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and the annex thereto could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council open debate on children and armed conflict
19 September 2012
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Concept note

Theme: "Children and armed conflict — increased accountability for violations and abuses committed against children"

1. With its resolutions 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011), the Security Council created a strong framework to act against perpetrators of the so-called "six grave violations"[a] committed against children in situations of armed conflict. These resolutions also constitute the basis for the Secretary-General's listing in his annual report of those parties which violate and abuse children in armed conflict. Over the years, such listings have led to United Nations-monitored action plans with parties to conflict and to the demobilization of thousands of children in conflict zones worldwide.

2. In his latest annual report on children and armed conflict (A/66/782-S/2012/261), the Secretary-General acknowledged progress made, inter alia, with regard to increased accountability for perpetrators of the six grave violations against children in armed conflict. With the implementation of resolution 1998 (2011), adopted by the Security Council in July 2011, and the signing of new action plans with parties to the conflicts in Afghanistan, Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Myanmar, as well as progress made by parties in releasing children and in fighting impunity for perpetrators through prosecutions, significant steps have been taken. The first judgement of the International Criminal Court on the war crime of conscripting and enlisting children under the age of 15 and of using them to participate actively in hostilities was also a milestone with regard to deterrence and better accountability for perpetrators.

3. However, the Secretary-General also voiced grave concern regarding the growing number of persistent perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children (currently 32 parties listed for five years or more) and called for immediate action to prevent further violations and to halt violations through increased dialogue and action plans with concerned parties.

4. The Security Council has repeatedly underlined its intention to increase pressure on persistent perpetrators and discuss ways and means to better address issues of impunity and accountability. At the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ambassador de la Sablière, former Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, recently issued a report also containing recommendations in this regard, including increased political engagement of the Council and enhanced cooperation with national and international

[a] Recruitment and use, killing and maiming, sexual violence as well as abduction, denial of humanitarian access and attacks against schools and/or hospitals.

tribunals, as well as greater targeted measures against individual perpetrators as necessary (see http://www.un.org/children/conflict/_documents/SCEngagementonProtectiononCAAC_reportEng.pdf).

5. The open debate on 19 September will give all United Nations members and observers an opportunity to discuss ways to better protect children in armed conflict including how to increase accountability for perpetrators.